

Serial No. 09/498,856  
Amendment Dated: May 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action Mailed: April 13, 2006  
Attorney Docket No.: 056210.41092CO

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

New formal drawings are submitted herewith as replacement sheets.

**REMARKS**

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's communication dated April 13, 2006, following the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences mailed February 24, 2006. The communication dated April 13, closes prosecution of this application on the merits, subject to resolution of certain formal issues identified in Item 2 on page 2 of the communication. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments, and the attachments hereto, as well as the comments set forth hereinbelow, applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

As noted in the Supplemental Declaration submitted herewith, the original issued U.S. Patent No. 5,510,982 was surrendered to the PTO on June 14, 2000 in the prosecution of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/064,765, now abandoned. To the extent necessary, applicants request that it be transferred to this application.

With regard to the continuation data referred to in Item 2(a), the specification has been amended to indicate that the parent reissue application is now abandoned. In addition, formal drawings are submitted herewith as required in Item 2.B, and a final Supplemental Declaration is submitted

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herewith, as required in Item 2.D. (The signed declaration will be submitted when it is received from Japan.)

In response to the Examiner's inquiry concerning the assignee's statement under 37 CFR §3.73(b), applicants note that the assignee's consent was contained in the Substitute Declaration and Power of Attorney submitted on April 4, 2001, with regard to the parent application, of which the present application is a continuation. A copy is attached for the Examiner's convenience. In this regard, applicants take note of the fact that a copy of the assignment for the parent application, Serial No. 09/064,765, is recorded at Reel No. 6468, Frame No. 0019. Moreover, a copy of such assignment was submitted with the Response to Final Office Action dated November 5, 2001. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of that document is also attached.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that all requirements contained in the Examiner's communication of April 13, 2006, have been satisfied, and that this application is now in condition for allowance.

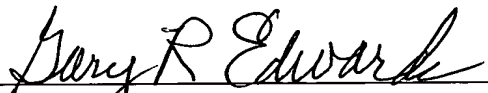
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 09/498,856  
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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056210.41092CO).

Respectfully submitted,

May 13, 2006

  
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